

Sharing Lifts, Voluntary Car Schemes, Rural Wheels, Village Wheels, Community Wheels and Community Minibus Sharing Schemes in Cumbria are all options for shared travel, as well of course as public transport.

Here are some details about some of these schemes, for you to consider how you reduce your travel costs and help those around you to do so too. While also potentially reducing carbon, which is something we should all be doing.

## What is a liftshare scheme and how to set one up?

Liftshare schemes (also known as carshares or ride shares) match people who are travelling to the same place so they can share a car journey. This could be a regular journey, such as a work commute, or a one-off journey to a nearby event.

It is illegal to profit from a liftshare scheme, but drivers may:

- Provide free travel
- Share journey costs (fuel, parking) between passengers
- Accept a small donation towards travel costs
- Take it in turns to drive (where multiple passengers own their own vehicles)

## When is a liftshare scheme suitable?

Liftshare schemes are suitable for journeys which are made to the same destination at the same time, such as:

- Work commutes
- School runs
- Weekly shopping trips

## A liftshare scheme:

- Provides transport for those without their own vehicle
- Allows drivers to save money by sharing travel costs
- Helps to reduce traffic congestion and pollution
- Anyone can join for free.

- The more people who join and submit journeys, the greater the chances of a liftshare match.
- Parish Councils and local organisations can promote the service in their community.

## Setting up a liftshare scheme

Setting up a liftshare scheme in your community could work well if you focus on one or two destinations. For example, an evening trip to an entertainment venue, or town trips on market day.

Starting small and staying focused makes it easier for members to notify your scheme when they are planning to travel.

- Set up a membership process with permission to keep member profiles such as gender, age group, etc.
- Provide a way for members to advertise which journeys they are taking, and for other members to indicate their interest in sharing the journey. This could be a public notice board or an online calendar.
- Most schemes will need a (volunteer) coordinator to share the contact details of matched members.

## Right to refuse

Anyone can refuse to share a journey for any reason. For example:

- A female driver may not want to share with a male passenger for safety reasons
- A passenger may be uncomfortable with a member's driving style

You should be sensitive to people's preferences, especially in a small community. Provide a way for people to turn down a liftshare request if they choose.

## Next steps

- Gather local support
- Choose the type of liftshare scheme you want
- Create a way for members to register journeys (if applicable) – like a private Facebook page or WhatsApp group.

**ACT can assist you if that would be useful – contact us on: [info@cumbriaaction.org.uk](mailto:info@cumbriaaction.org.uk)**

There are many communities who organise very informal liftshares, through private Facebook or WhatsApp messaging, between people who know each other – basically being neighbourly.

If you want to use a national liftshare organisation you can find one here:

[liftshare.com/uk](http://liftshare.com/uk) it's a free matching service that also suggests the amount you offer to share a journey. No profit can be made from the journey and there is advice on how to stay safe in agreeing a journey match.

## Voluntary Car Schemes

If you need to organise and support others with specific journeys, you may want to set up Voluntary Car Scheme. Cumbria County Council run a very successful countywide scheme.

Information here; [www.cumbria.gov.uk/voluntarycarscheme](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/voluntarycarscheme)

If you were to join and share just one journey with a neighbour, it would save carbon, and expenses are reimbursed.

Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.

Cumbria County Council also organise a number of alternative transport schemes for travel including Rural Wheels, Community Wheels and Village Wheels. You can find the details here: [www.cumbria.gov.uk/ruralwheels](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ruralwheels)

## Community Minibuses

There are also a number of Community Minibuses available to hire for not-for-profit groups and charities managed by Cumbria Community Transport.

You can find information on this here: [cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/transport/commtrans/minibusehire.asp](http://cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/transport/commtrans/minibusehire.asp)

Cumbria County Council's Voluntary Transport Officer can assist with information and support on community transport initiatives. You can contact Katy here:

Katy Wood, Voluntary Transport Officer

Tel: 0333 240 69 65 (option 5) local rate

Mob: 07788 396194

Email: [integrated.transport@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:integrated.transport@cumbria.gov.uk)

## Covid-19 Safety

The guidance above aims to support you to reduce costs and carbon from travel. It is all about shared travel and therefore, of course, you need to consider Covid safety.

While there are no longer any national restrictions, it's still good advice to be safe with Hands, Face, Space and Air.

For more information visit: [www.cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/latest.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/latest.asp)

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**For more information please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on Tel: 01768 425 666 or visit our website: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)**

## ACT champions community and rural issues

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